IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Title on page 1, lines 6-8 with the following new Title:

SYSTEM, METHOD AND ~~COMPUTER ACCESSIBLE STORAGE MEDIUM~~ <u>PROGRAM</u>

FOR <u>IMPROVED COLOR</u> IMAGE ~~PROCESSING~~ <u>SIGNAL QUANTIZATION</u>

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 27 to page 2, line 4, with the following

rewritten paragraph:

It is also known in the data processing that ~~PGB~~ <u>RGB</u> components for the primary

colors are correlated highly each other. Prior to the image data compression, therefore, the

image data are subjected to the color transformation into less correlated components such as

lightness and color signals.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 21 to page 3, line 1, with the following

rewritten paragraph:

The RCT transformation method is implemented in general to decorrelate the ~~GBR~~

<u>RGB</u> components in pixels, thereby improving the rate of data compression, and has the form

as simple as possible placing priority on higher speeds of data processing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 13-17, with the following rewritten

paragraph:

<u>The</u> ~~he~~ construction of the color space such as above is not practical for the color

signals processing, since precise quantization on the V axis, for example, can be achieved

after referring the values V and Y, in a similar manner to that previously disclosed in the U.S.

Pat. No. 5,072,290.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 1-9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Since the signal transformation is performed to decorrelate the ~~PGB~~ RGB components, as indicated earlier, it is preferable through the compression steps to examine the characteristics of the respective component color image signals resulted from the RTC transform. Although such an examination on the component signals may not always be necessary for the case of relatively low degree of compression, it becomes requisite with either the increase in the degree of compression, or with the demands for higher image quality by means of the data decompression, among others.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 2-10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

First, an assumption is made, in that a color signal changes from V to $V + \Delta V$ with the G component fixed, that is, the change ΔV in the B component alone among the ~~GBR~~ RGB components is assumed to be caused by the quantization error through decoding steps. In addition, the color space of the above noted RGB signal (i.e., so-called input profile of the signal) is assumed to be appropriately represented by the standard RGB space. The coordinates of the RGB signal are then transformed into those in the Lab space by the known transformation methods.